

**REMARKS**

The Official Action mailed February 17, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 28, 2002, April 3, 2002, June 10, 2002, November 22, 2002, January 23, 2003, July 28, 2004, and December 9, 2004.

Claims 1-21, 23-35, 37-89 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicants note that the *Disposition of Claims* in the Office Action Summary (Box 4) appears to omit new claims 84-89, which were added in the *Amendment* filed December 1, 2004. Claims 1-8 and 37-80 have been canceled, and new claims 90-124 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 75-77 and 81-83 (page 4, Paper No. 02152005). Accordingly, claims 9-21, 23-35 and 81-124 are currently pending, of which claims 9, 23, 81, 84, 87, 90, 103, 116, 119 and 122 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

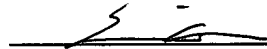
Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 9-21 and 23-35 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over the combination of claims 49-114 of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/051,064 and U.S. Patent No. 5,789,284 to Yamazaki et al.

In response to this rejection, a *Terminal Disclaimer* is submitted herewith. Upon filing of this *Terminal Disclaimer*, the claims of the present invention are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections are requested.

New claims 90-124 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. For the reasons stated above and already of record, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 90-124 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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